

Del Rio to USC

FEB 25 1981
HAYWARD — Jack Del Rio, the highly recruited linebacker from Hayward High, signed a national college football letter-of-intent with the University of Southern California today.

The 6-4, 231-pound linebacker had narrowed his choices to USC, UCLA and Stanford before deciding on the Trojans.

See story in sports section,
page 41.

Del Rio singles off Fernando in USC win

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sid Akins pitched six innings of two-hit baseball and Hayward's Jack Del Rio drove in what turned out to be the winning run as the University of Southern California beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 4-0 Sunday in the teams' annual exhibition game at Dodger Stadium.

Akins, a right-hander, struck out three and didn't allow a walk during his stint on the mound.

FEB 13 1984

The Trojans scored their first run in the first inning off loser Fernando Valenzuela. Del Rio, Southern Cal's catcher, singled to drive in the run.

Del Rio nominated for Lombardi award

HOUSTON — Former Hayward High and current USC star Jack Del Rio was one of the nominees named Saturday for the 1984 Lombardi College Linemen of the Year award.

Del Rio, 6-foot-4 and 235 pounds, has been a four-year starting linebacker for USC and has been named to the Playboy All-American, All-Pac-10 and All-Coast teams for the last two years.

Among the other nominees released by the nominating committee were defensive tackles Ray Childress of Texas A&M and Tony Degrate of Texas, inside linebacker Gregg Carr of Auburn, and offensive tackle Bill Fralic of Pittsburgh.

Also named as senior nominees were nose guard William Perry of Clemson, defensive tackle Bruce Smith of Virginia Tech, offensive tackle Lance Smith of LSU, and center Mark Traynowicz of Nebraska.

Juniors nominated for the award were nose guard Tony Casillas of Oklahoma and defensive tackles Tim Green of Syracuse and Leslie O'Neil of Oklahoma State.

Last year's Lombardi award winner was the Nebraska All-American Dean Steinkuhler, who currently is a rookie offensive lineman for the Houston Oilers.

Nominees are chosen by a 217-member committee made up of college coaches and sports reporters.

The trophy is named for Green Bay Packers Coach Vince Lombardi, who died of cancer in 1970. This year's winner will be announced Nov. 24 or 25, the committee said. The award will be presented Dec. 6 at a ceremonial dinner in Houston.

Pacific-10 drops Del Rio to second-team linebacker

NOV 21 1984

From staff and wire reports

Hayward's ~~Jack Del Rio~~, an All-Pacific-10 Conference first-team selection at outside linebacker both his sophomore and junior years at USC, had to settle for second-team honors on this year's squad, which was announced Tuesday after voting by the conference's head coaches.

Frank Han / Cooley
One of the players to beat out Del Rio was his teammate, outside linebacker Duane Bickett. Also named to the first team at linebacker were Washington's Fred Small and Tim Meamber, Lamonte Hunley of Arizona and Tommy Taylor of UCLA.

There was a strong local flavor to the second-team linebacking corps. Joining Del Rio were California's Hardy Nickerson, Stanford's Dave Wyman and Lee Blakeney of Washington State, who went to high school at Ygnacio Valley in Concord.

Stanford center Brent Martin and defensive lineman Garin Veris both made the first team. Joining Wyman and Nickerson on the second team were Cal quarterback Gale Gilbert and Stanford running back Brad Muster.

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Despite season-long injury problems Gilbert had a creditable senior year in which he completed 166 of 308 passes for 1,693 yards and six touchdowns. The first-team quarterback was Washington State's versatile Mark Rypien.

Muster, a sophomore from Novato who redshirted his freshman year, was listed at third string when the season began. He wound up running for 823 yards on 184 carries, including 34 carries for 204 yards in Stanford's 27-10 Big Game win over Cal.

Rose Bowl-bound USC placed five players on the first team: running back Fred Crutcher, offensive lineman Ken Ruettgers, defensive lineman Tony Colorito, Bickett, and defensive back Tommy Haynes.

Oregon and UCLA were next with four choices each.

There were three unanimous choices: running backs Rueben Mayes of Washington State and Darryl Clack of Arizona State and guard Dan Lynch of Washington State.

There were five repeat choices: sophomore defensive back David Fulcher, Lynch, offensive lineman Duval Love of UCLA, defensive lineman Ron Holmes of Washington, and wide receiver Lew Barnes of Oregon.

Cl Rio second team All-Pac-10

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

QB—Mark Rypien (WSU, Jr). RB—*Rueben Mayes (WSU, Jr), *Darryl Clack (ASU, Jr), Fred Crutcher (USC, Jr). WR—Lew Barnes (Ore, Jr), Reggie Bynum (OSU, Jr).
TE—Doug Herman (Ore, Sr). OL—*Dan Lynch (WSU, Sr), Ken Ruettgers (USC, Sr), Duval Love (UCLA, Sr), Mark Shupe (ASU, Sr) Brent Martin (Stan, Sr). PK—John Lee (UCLA, Jr).

DEFENSE

DL—Ron Holmes (Wash, Sr), Garin Veris (Stan., Sr), David Wood (Ariz Sr), Tony Colorito (USC, Jr). LB—Duane Bickett (USC, Sr), Tim Meamber (Wash, Sr), Lamonte Hunley (Ariz, Sr), Fred Small (Wash, Sr), Tommy Taylor (UCLA, Jr).
DB—David Fulcher (ASU, So), Allan Durden (Ariz, Jr), Tommy Haynes (USC, Sr), Doug Judge (Ore, Jr). Punter—Kevin Buenafé (UCLA, Sr). Return specialist—Tony Cherry (Ore, Sr)

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

QB—Gale Gilbert (Cal). RB—Brad Muster (Stan), Jacque Robinson (Wash), David Adams (Ariz). WR—Doug Allen (ASU), Mike Young (UCLA). TE—Joe Cormier (UCLA).
OL—Kirk Samuelson (WSU), Jeff Bregel (USC), Tom Magazzeni (ASU), Charlie Dickey (Ariz), Greg Schwab (Ore). PK—Luis Zendejas (ASU).

DEFENSE

DL—Joe Drake (Ariz), Angelo Dilulo (OSU), Dan Saleaumus (WSU), John Gonzalez (OSU). LB—Lee Blakeney (WSU), Steve Boadway (Ariz), Jack Del Rio (USC), Dave Wyman (Stan), Hardy Nickerson (Cal).
DB—Kenny Taylor (OSU), Vestee Jackson (Wash), Tim McDonald (USC), Jim Rodgers (Wash). Punter—Jim Meyer (ASU). Return specialist—David Adams (Ariz).

*—indicates unanimous selection

Del Rio makes Camp All-America team

② Football/College NOV 22 1984
From staff and wire reports

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Hayward's Jack Del Rio, who was unable to convince Pacific-10 Conference coaches that he deserved first-team mention as an outside linebacker, has proven more successful with a national constituency.

Thursday it was announced that Del Rio, a senior at Southern California, has been named to college football's oldest all-star team, the Walter Camp Football Foundation All-America team.

Coaches and sports information directors from 183 schools took part in balloting for the team, which was first selected in 1889.

Del Rio, a 6-foot-4, 235-pound Hayward High graduate, has accumulated 11 tackles for losses in 10 games this season. Del Rio closes out his brilliant college career Saturday at the L.A. Coliseum against Notre Dame. Regardless of the result of Saturday's game, Del Rio and the 14th-ranked Trojans will meet eighth-ranked Ohio State in the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day.

It will be the first Rose Bowl appearance for Del Rio and the first for the Trojans since the 1980 season. Del Rio played in the 1982 Fiesta Bowl as a freshman and had eight tackles in a 26-10 loss to Penn State.

Joining Del Rio at linebacker are Larry Station of Iowa and Greg Carr of Auburn. Earlier this week Del Rio, who has 55 tackles for losses in his career, was named to the second team by the Pac-10. USC teammate Duane Bickett was one of the five All-Pac-10 players honored by the conference's coaches.

Also on the team is prime Heisman Trophy candidate Doug Flutie of Cotton Bowl-bound Boston College, college football's all-time total yardage leader. Flutie — who set an NCAA total yardage record with more than 10,000 yards during his college career — was joined on the team by Keith Byars of Rose Bowl-bound Ohio State, the nation's leading rusher this season.

Selected to the 1984 Walter Camp backfield along with Byars, who rushed for 1,655 yards, were Florida State's Greg Allen and Ken Davis of Texas Christian. Allen was a Camp all-star selection in 1983.

Clemson's 330-pound offensive lineman William Perry and Pittsburgh's 285-pound offensive lineman Bill Fralic were the other returnees to the 1984 team, which will be honored Feb. 2.

Flutie's Boston College teammate Tony Thurman, who led the nation in interceptions this season with 10,

was named to the team's defensive backfield along with Texas' Jerry Gray, Georgia's Jeff Sanchez and Oklahoma State's Rod Brown.

David Williams of Illinois, the favorite target of Livermore's Jack Trudeau, was the selection at wide receiver, while West Virginia's Rob Bennet was named the team's tight end. Williams became the third player in major college football to catch more than 100 passes in a season; he hauled in 101 receptions (9.2 per game) for the Illini and totaled 1,278 yards.

Along with Perry, the 1984 squad's defensive line includes Tony DeGrate of Texas, Bruce Smith of Virginia Tech, and Ron Holmes of Washington. In addition to Fralic, the offensive line includes guards Bill Mayo of Tennessee and Del Wilkes of South Carolina, tackle Lomas Brown of Florida, and center Mark Traynowicz of Nebraska.

Georgia's Kevin Butler, who made 20 of 24 field goal attempts including a 60-yarder to beat Clemson early in the season, was named as the team's place-kicker. Vanderbilt's Rick Anderson, who led the nation with a 47.8-yard punting average, was the selection at that position.



Jack Del Rio is winding up a sterling career at USC.

No place like home for USC's Del Rio

Trojans star would like to stay in L.A.

OCT 30 1984

By Jeff Faraudo
Staff writer

As he descended the steps into the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum last Friday afternoon, Jack Del Rio seemed comfortable and at home, very much like a man settling into his easy chair following a hard day's work.

The Southern California sunshine danced off his blond hair and Del Rio surveyed the historic stadium, made even more spectacular by its recent Olympics facelift.

"It's a great place to play a football game, isn't it?" he offered, more answering the question than asking it.

Indeed, Jack Del Rio is very much at home in Los Angeles and its Coliseum. Now in his fourth year as a starting linebacker at USC, the former Hayward High three-sport star even admits he'd like to spend his pro football career in the L.A. Coliseum — with the Los Angeles Raiders.

Del Rio, who will play in the Bay Area for the last time as a collegian Saturday when USC visits Stanford, seems equally content with a Trojan career that has brought him fame and almost guaranteed him future fortune.

Everything is perfect in Jack Del Rio's life.

Well, it could be.

"I really don't care if I make All-American or not. As long as we go to the Rose Bowl . . . that's the biggest thing right now in my life," he said.

The irony of Del Rio's college career, of course, is that he selected USC specifically because it represented the greatest opportunity to achieve maximum team success and play in the Rose Bowl. UCLA, one of the finalists in his recruiting four years ago, wound up No. 2 on his list because its football tradition couldn't match USC's.

But the Bruins have won the last two Rose Bowls and USC hasn't played the Big 10 champions in January since Del Rio's junior year in high school. The Trojans just missed the Rose Bowl in Del Rio's freshman season and were banned from post-season play by NCAA probation the past two seasons.

Now the Trojans are back, at 6-1 and 5-0 in Pacific-10 Conference play, and Del Rio is hungry for Pasadena. He says early this year the Trojans were motivated by a desire to shut up anyone who was still enjoying USC's 4-6-1 record last year, but now the incentive is purely selfish.

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USC's Del Rio yearns for pro career in confines of Coliseum

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People either love USC or hate it," he admitted. "We were so good for so many years, when we were down and all of a sudden vulnerable, people threw it at us. But this is my senior year and I want to do it for me and us and I don't really care about what they think."

Del Rio is also unconcerned about how outsiders view his personal performance this year. A two-time all-conference selection whose photo appeared on the cover of two national magazines before the season, Del Rio was expected to essentially redefine the standards for outside linebackers this fall.

And, he hasn't. He has accumulated 60 tackles — third on the team — but has recorded just three quarterback sacks and has generally not made the big plays that have been the hallmark of his career.

"I'm having a good, solid year, but naturally with all the exposure I'm getting right now, I'm expecting more," he said. "Stats-wise, I'm not happy with what I'm getting."

But is he having an All-America season?

"Are you asking me if I would put me on my team? Sure I'd put me on

my team," he asked. "I believe that if I continue to play like I am and we continue to win, I'll be an All-American. I'm hoping anyway."

Duane Bickett, Del Rio's linebacking counterpart on the strong

side of USC's defense, believes the numbers do not adequately indicate Del Rio's contribution to the Trojans' resurgence.

"He's practicing harder than I've ever seen him practice," said

Bickett, the Trojans' top tackler. "People look up to him and they tend to say, 'If Jack Del Rio's practicing hard, I should be practicing hard.' He kind of sets a tone for what we should be doing.

What they're saying about USC's Del Rio

OCT 30 1984

- "Jack has had the most consistently outstanding career of any Trojan I've seen in my six years here. He's just a natural football player. His ability to come off blocks and make the big plays is amazing. Plus, he has a real sense of nastiness about him." — *Artie Gigantino, USC defensive coordinator.*

- "Our opponents have looked at our defense and decided to run their plays away from Jack. If I were a coach, I'd do the same thing. It's a smart move to run away from an All-American." — *Duane Bickett, USC's "other" outside linebacker who is getting plenty of action this fall.*

- "College football is blessed with an array of outstanding linebackers in 1984, but one of the most imposing and dominating is Jack Del Rio. His ability to play the pass and yet still move up and down the line of scrimmage from sideline to sideline is something you do not coach. Look for Jack to be one of the dominating forces in the NFL in the mid-1980s." — *Gil Brandt, Dallas Cowboys' vice president of*

personnel development.

- "A big, big hitter with a big-city personality and an All-Pro by 1986." — *Sports Illustrated's Douglas S. Looney, citing Del Rio as one of three deserving, but unlikely Heisman Trophy candidates.*

- "He's a great player, just like everyone says. But the thing that sets him apart is his competitiveness." — *California quarterback Gale Gilbert, who was sacked four times by Del Rio in 1983.*

- "Jack is the most dominant defensive player in the Pac-10, if not the entire country. He's the most aggressive, intense player I've ever been around. He gives 100 percent every down. The more physical the game gets, the more he likes it." — *USC Coach Ted Tollner.*

- "I see him as being one of the all-time great defensive players ever at USC." — *John Robinson, Los Angeles Rams coach and former USC coach.*

"As far meeting his expectations, I haven't reached my expectations either," Bickett added. "If you've reached your goals, you obviously haven't set them high enough. Jack has the ability to make great plays every time he's on the field and more of them will start coming."

"He's playing well, but he has the ability to play even better."

Del Rio also has the ability to play baseball, as evidenced by his 1984 season with the Trojans when he hit .342 with seven homers and 32 RBIs. He was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays out of high school, but this summer decided finally his future will be in football.

"What it comes down to is right now I think the best opportunity for me is in football. You find out right away whether or not you're good enough to make it," he explained. "I thought about playing this last summer, but the talk was to play for the Olympic team and then play college again this year and see what happens."

"But I didn't want to play college again this year, so what they were saying was it wasn't going to work out unless I did it their way."

Well, it isn't going to work out and

Del Rio made the decision.

What should work out just fine is a career in pro football. He has very little idea regarding where he'll be selected in the draft — although many scouts suggest he's a first-round pick — but guesses he'll wind up in the NFL.

"It would take an awful lot to get me to go to the other league," he said, referring to the USFL. "I think the NFL is the elite."

Which brings us back to the Raiders, the team Del Rio would "love to play for." He realizes he has no control over who selects him in the NFL draft, but his aggressive style would seem to fit the Raiders' approach to defense by intimidation.

Del Rio is apparently even grooming his personality for the Raiders. In the wake of a recent wire story that labeled him "Mr. Mom" after detailing his domestic responsibilities as a teen-ager in a single-parent home, Del Rio was asked to prepare a dinner for an L.A. columnist.

He refused, explaining to USC's sports information director, "That's not my image."

Somewhere, John Matuszak is smiling.

Del Rio is Lombardi finalist

HOUSTON (AP) — Hayward's Jack Del Rio is one of four players named as finalists for the Rotary Lombardi Award in 1984, the 15th year the award has been presented to the best lineman in college football.

The four, who are all seniors, were selected in voting by a 217-member national selection committee of college coaches, sportswriters and sportscasters.

Selected as finalists are Tony Degrade, a University of Texas defensive tackle; Bill Fralic, a Pittsburgh offensive tackle; William Perry, a Clemson nose guard; and Del Rio, a graduate of Hayward High currently in his final season as Southern Cal outside linebacker.

The winner will be named at an awards dinner Dec. 6 in Houston.

Southern Cal Coach Ted Tollner says Del Rio, at 6-foot-4, 250 pounds, "is the most dominant defensive player in the Pac-10 and the most aggressive, intense one I've ever been around. He gives 100 percent on every down."

Dean Steinkuhler of Nebraska won the Lombardi Award in 1983.

Kodak, Shrine selections latest honors for Del Rio

From staff and wire reports

NOV 28 1984

The honors continue to pour in for USC linebacker Jack Del Rio.

On Tuesday, the Hayward High grad was named to the Kodak All-America first team selected by the American Football Coaches Association.

Later in the day, it was announced that Del Rio was one of the first selections for the West team for the 60th annual Shrine East-West Game at Stanford Stadium on Jan. 5.

Last week, Del Rio was named second-team on the All-Pac-10 team, after making the first team his sophomore and junior seasons. However, he made the first team on the Walter Camp Football Foundation All-America team.

Del Rio is also one of the four finalists for the Lombardi Award, given to the nation's outstanding lineman.

Although he was overshadowed statistically by linebacker teammate Duane Bickett this season, the 6-foot-4, 235-pound Del Rio is generally regarded as one of the top pro prospects in the country and a sure bet to be a first-round NFL draft pick.

Del Rio joins some pretty outstanding company on

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Jack Del Rio

Rio on Kodak team

NOV 28 1984

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The Kodak All-America team, which is headed by Boston College quarterback Doug Flutie and three holdovers from last year's team.

The repeaters were offensive tackle Bill Fralic of Pittsburgh, another Lombardi finalist, defensive tackle Bruce Smith of Virginia Tech, and defensive back Jerry Gray of Texas.

Three Stanford players — linebacker Garin Veris, center Brent Martin and wide receiver Emile Harry — were also named to the West Shrine team, along with Nevada-Las Vegas quarterback Randall Cunningham.

Football writers

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — Hayward's Jack Del Rio was named to the Football Writers Association of America All-America team Wednesday. NOV 29 1984

The USC linebacker has previously been named to the Walter Camp and Kodak All-America teams. The 6-foot-4, 235-pound senior was a second-team All-Pacific-10 conference selection and will play in the Shrine East-West Game at Stanford as well as the Rose Bowl against Ohio State on New Year's Day.

USC teammate Duane Bickett, who was named Pac-10 Defensive Player of the Year this season, joined Del Rio on the defensive team.

Boston College quarterback Doug Flutie, Ohio State running back Keith Byars and a pair of repeaters — tackle Bill Fralic of Pitt and defensive back Jerry Gray of Texas — were also named to the team.

Among the other selections by the FWAA was wide receiver Jerry Rice of Mississippi Valley State, a Division 1-AA school. All other choices are from Division 1-A.

In addition to USC, three other schools placed two players apiece on the team — Ohio State with Byars and offensive lineman Jim Lachey, Texas with Gray and defen-

sive lineman Tony Degrate, and Nebraska with center Mark Traynowicz and defensive back Bret Clark.

Del Rio is first team AP All-America pick

From staff and wire reports

NEW YORK — Hayward's Jack Del Rio today was named to The Associated Press All-America football team.

The 6-4, 235-pound USC linebacker moves up to AP's first team after being an honorable mention choice a year ago.

Del Rio's selection marks the third All-America honor he has received this year. He was previously named to the Kodak Coaches' All-America team and the Walter Camp Football Foundation team. Ironically, Del Rio was only a second team All-Pacific 10 Conference choice as selected by the league's coaches. He made first team his sophomore and junior seasons.

Del Rio is also one of four finalists for the Lombardi Award, presented annually to the nation's outstanding lineman. Pittsburgh offensive tackle Bill Fralic, Texas defensive tackle Tony Degrade, and Clemson middle guard William Perry are the other nominees. Fralic was named to AP's All-America team for the third straight year, while Degrade made AP's second team and Perry the third team. The Lombardi Award will be presented Thursday night.

Boston College quarterback Doug Flutie, the Heisman Trophy winner, heads AP's first-team offense.

Flutie, the magical 5-foot-9¾ rifle-armed scrambler who captured the nation's fancy and became the first quarterback in 13 years to win the Heisman Trophy, passed for 10,579 yards and also set an NCAA career total offense mark of 11,317 yards.

With Flutie at the controls, Boston College led the nation in scoring with 36.7 points a game and earned a Cotton Bowl bid, its first major bowl trip in 42 years. For the year, Flutie completed 233 of 386 passes for 3,454 yards and 27 touchdowns and led the nation in passing efficiency.

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Del Rio, 3 others vie for Lombardi

HOUSTON (AP) — Hayward's Jack Del Rio and two other top collegiate linemen competing for the annual Lombardi Award said Wednesday their hearts lie with the National Football League but their minds tell them to turn pro with whomever offers the most money.

Del Rio, a Hayward High graduate and a line-backer at Southern California, said his dream has been to play with the Los Angeles Raiders, but big bucks from the United States Football League could sway him from the NFL.

"Obviously, I don't want to close any doors," he said. "I'd like to keep them all open and when the time comes I'll make that decision."

Del Rio, defensive tackle Tony Degrate of Texas, Pittsburgh offensive tackle Bill Fralic and Clemson nose guard William Perry are the finalists for the 15th annual Lombardi Award, given by the Rotary Club of Houston to the nation's top collegiate football lineman.

The award, named after former Green Bay Packer Coach Vince Lombardi, will be made at a banquet tonight.

Council honors Del Rio

DEC 12 1984
HAYWARD — The Hayward City Council Tuesday night unanimously passed a resolution commending Hayward's Jack Del Rio for his outstanding accomplishments.
Councilman Matt Jimenez, who introduced the motion, mentioned

Del Rio's achievements this season as a senior linebacker at USC. Del Rio has been selected to three All-America teams (Associated Press, Kodak and Walter Camp) as well as being named to the West squad for the Jan. 5 Shrine East-West Game at Stanford.

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Associated Press

Dynamic duo

DEC 16, 1984

Hayward's Jack Del Rio poses with comedian Bob Hope during taping of Hope's Christmas special, which will be aired tonight on Channel 4 at 9 p.m. Del Rio, a senior linebacker at USC, will be honored along with the rest of the All-American college football team.

Del Rio's big day by the Bay

Hayward native comes home to play in today's Shrine Game

By Barry Locke
Staff writer

JAN 5 1985

STANFORD — Jack Del Rio took a chance when he chose to play in today's 60th annual Shrine East-West college all-star football game at Stanford Stadium.

After all, the All-American linebacker from the University of Southern California could have been in warm Hawaii for the Hula Bowl, also being played today.

Instead, because of his local ties (and the fact he's been to Hawaii twice), the former Hayward High star chose the Shrine Game, along with the risk of practicing and playing in the Bay Area's unpredictable January weather.

But on Thursday, while Del Rio was practicing along with the rest of the West team on the Stanford practice field, there was no rain or bone-chilling cold. It was an unseasonably warm 60 degrees under bright blue skies.

The sun seems to be following Jack Del Rio these days. The 6-foot-4, 235-pounder is still basking in the

TV football weekend

TODAY

Noon — East-West Shrine All-Star Game (5-10-46)

1 p.m. — Hula Bowl: East All-Stars vs. West All-Stars (3-4-8)

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. — AFC Championship Game: Pittsburgh vs. Miami (3-4-8)

1 p.m. — NFC Championship Game: Chicago vs. San Francisco (5-10-46)

Trojans' 20-17 upset win over Ohio State in the Rose Bowl.

During the game, Del Rio had a team-high six tackles along with two quarterback sacks.

On Sunday, after his last Bay Area appearance as a collegiate player he'll head to Tokyo, where he'll play in next week's Japan Bowl wrapping up his sterling four-year

college career.

And after that, it will be just a few months before the National Football League will almost certainly make Del Rio a first-round pick in its annual draft this spring.

"He's one of the better linebackers in the country," said Charlie Casserly, assistant general manager of the Washington Redskins and one of the dozens of scouts inspecting the goods at Thursday's practice session.

"The big thing is where do you play him? People have to make that decision. Do you play him inside or outside? That's a decision someone will have to make. He'll go in the first round and he should probably play inside in a 3-4."

Del Rio, who was an outside linebacker mainly with rushing responsibilities in college, is philosophical about what position he might play in the professional ranks.

"I'm willing to play anywhere," he said. "Inside linebacker, outside linebacker, even defensive end. I think I can play any of those posi-



Jack Del Rio

tions but it depends on what the team needs and where I fit in."

That willingness to play anywhere carries over into Del Rio's attitude about what part of the country he'll play in.

"Naturally, I'd love to play on the West Coast, to stay in an area I enjoy and I'm familiar with," said Del Rio, who has previously men-

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Del Rio finds a Shrine

JAN 5 1985
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tioned the Los Angeles Raiders as his ideal pick. "The main thing is I really want a shot at playing."

One possibility that would keep Del Rio on the West Coast, and playing in the same Los Angeles Coliseum where he spent so many Saturdays in college, would be if he signed with the Express of the United States Football League.

Del Rio won't rule out playing for the Express, who chose him in this week's territorial draft.

"I think I'm the same as a lot of guys in the Shrine Game. We grew up watching and dreaming about the NFL," Del Rio said. "But the USFL is here and it's a reality. I'm not closing any doors."

Del Rio has kept the doors open to his Bay Area roots all along, which is the main reason he opted for the Shrine Game.

"Growing up in the Bay Area, I always watched this game," he said. "I thought it would be a great thing to do to come play one more time in front of my family and friends."

And this will be the first time Del Rio returns to the Bay Area as a member of the Rose Bowl's winning team. One of his reasons for choosing USC upon leaving Hayward High was his dream to play in the Rose Bowl. After three years of frustration, he finally realized that dream this year.

"It was my last game in a Trojan uniform, with all those guys. I've built up a great affection for a lot of those guys," Del Rio said. "After we lost our last two games (UCLA and Notre Dame), the papers were saying Ohio State was going to kill us. But we all played our butts off and we showed the nation the Trojans are back."

"I couldn't be happier. It's a great way to end my career at USC."

NOTES: A crowd of 70,000 is expected for the game, the longest-running all-star game in college football ... Since 1925, the game has raised more than \$9 million for crippled children ... Kickoff is scheduled for noon ...

A couple of people Del Rio figures to be running into today are East running backs George Adams of Kentucky and Johnnie Jones of Tennessee. Adams (6-1, 213) ranked fifth in the nation in all-purpose yardage, including 1,085 yards rushing and 13 touchdowns. Jones, a second-team All-American, was the nation's fifth-leading rusher with 1,290 yards — the second straight year he gained more than 1,000 yards on the ground ...

The West's top running backs are Nebraska's Jeff Smith and Scotty Caldwell of Texas at Arlington. Smith (5-9, 195) rushed for 935 yards after replacing Mike Rozier in the Cornhuskers' backfield this year while Caldwell rushed for 939 yards this year and 3,267 yards in his career ...

Stanford is the only Bay Area school represented. The Cardinal has three players in the game: wide receiver Emile Harry (5-11, 178), defensive lineman Garin Varis (6-5, 253), and center Brent Martin (6-4, 261).

Phillips ignores speed rap

By Jeff Faraudo
Staff writer

Much of the National Football League apparently decided in recent months that Hayward's Jack Del Rio was a step too slow to make it big in the league.

But Coach Bum Phillips, whose New Orleans Saints made Del Rio their third-round NFL draft choice Tuesday, doesn't buy that logic.

"I think everybody's scared of 4.9," Phillips said, referring to Del Rio's 40-yard dash time. "Everybody goes into the draft looking for someone who runs 4-nothing.

"But I don't look for that. I look for football players. This kid's a good football player, and we weren't going to pass him up."

Del Rio, a 6-foot-4, 235-pound linebacker from USC, will play at either an inside or outside spot for the Saints.

"The fun begins now," said Del Rio, 22. "The waiting's over, the speculation's over. I was very tired of it. It's a great relief that it's over. I'm ready to go after 'em now."

The first Bay Area player drafted

Local draft highlights



Jack Del Rio

Round	Player	Position	Team
School			
1.	Garin Veris	DE	
	Stanford		New England
3.	Jack Del Rio	LB	
	USC		New Orleans
3.	Rich Moran	OG	
	San Diego		Green Bay
4.	Tom Briehl	LB	
	Stanford		Houston
4.	Emile Harry	WR	
	Stanford		Atlanta
5.	Tony Smith	WR	
	San Jose State		N.Y. Jets
6.	Jeff Deaton	OG	
	Stanford		N.Y. Jets
6.	Joe Krakoski	LB	
	Washington		Houston

was Stanford defensive end Garin Veris, who was the 48th pick of the draft, selected in the second round by New England.

Three picks after the Saints made Del Rio the draft's 68th pick, the Green Bay Packers tabbed Pleasanton's Rich Moran, an offensive guard from San Diego State.

Two Stanford players, linebacker Tom Briehl and wide receiver Emile Harry, were selected in the fourth round. Briehl went to Hous-

ton and Harry to Atlanta.

San Jose State wide receiver Tony Smith was chosen by the New York Jets in the fifth round, and the Jets also took Stanford offensive guard Jeff Deaton in the sixth round. Former Mission San Jose High player Joe Krakoski was drafted in the sixth round by the Houston Oilers, and Stanford offensive guard Matt Moran was taken in the same round by the Dallas

Continued on Page 43, col. 1

ward's Del Rio Selected by Saints

Continued from Page 41
Cowboys. MAY 1 1985

Pacific quarterback Paul Berner was selected by the San Diego Chargers in the ninth round, and Stanford center Brent Martin went to the Atlanta Falcons in the tenth round.

In the next-to-last pick of the draft, the only University of California player was chosen when Miami grabbed Bears defensive back Ray Noble. California quarterback Gale Gilbert, at one time thought to be a valuable commodity, was not selected in the 12-round draft.

Del Rio was a two-time pre-season Playboy All-American at USC and was named the team's Most Valuable Defensive Player after an impressive junior season in which he collected 99 tackles, including 13 quarterbacks sacks for losses totaling 107 yards.

Because of those numbers and a recklessly aggressive style, Del Rio's NFL stock was perhaps as high as any collegiate linebacker in the nation entering last fall. Gil Brandt, vice president of personnel development for the Dallas Cowboys, predicted that Del Rio would become "one of the dominating forces in the NFL in the mid-1980s."

But the former Hayward High three-sport star had what experts considered an off-year in 1984, perhaps partially because opposing teams chose to direct their offense elsewhere. As a result, teammate Duane Bickett gained notoriety, for which he was rewarded Monday by being selected by Indianapolis as the No. 5 pick in the draft.

Meanwhile, Del Rio, who failed to make the All-Pacific 10 Conference team last fall for the first time in three years, watched his projected

draft status drop from that of an almost certain first-round pick to a second- or third-round spot.

"That's all speculation," Del Rio said. "The whole time I was telling people not to get their hopes up, because you never know what can happen. But I got my hope up too; I thought I would be drafted in the second round."

While acknowledging that he was in the spotlight for four years at USC, Del Rio explained, "There was never a doubt about my speed until they put me under the microscope."

Del Rio got the close-up scrutiny at a February pro scouting-combine camp in Arizona. He arrived in Tempe following an All-America banquet circuit and even contemplated bypassing the camp.

"I was slow and sluggish," said Del Rio, also admitting he was 10 pounds overweight. "I talked to one of my coaches about not going, but he didn't think that was a good idea because he didn't want there to be any attitude rumors, like I was too good to go to the camp."

Del Rio, who has never been to New Orleans, will leave for Bayou Country today in order to see the town and meet the coaching staff.

Although he's never met Phillips, Del Rio said he's long admired him. "He's a great man and I'm looking forward to playing for him," Del Rio said.

The feeling is mutual.

"He's a good player, an honest player . . . the kind of kid who will go out and give you everything he has on every play," Phillips said. "He's got good body control, he has good reaction to blocks and he makes the big play."

Del Rio on draft: he prefers

JACK AND Jill went up the hill. Doug and Herschel went to the USFL. But Jack Del Rio will probably go to the NFL as a high draft pick.

Del Rio, the Hayward High product who was an All-America linebacker at USC, wasn't particularly enchanted with the thought of playing in the USFL in the first place.

"I always felt the NFL was the classier of the two," he said.

He was a territorial selection of the USFL Los Angeles Express. But he never heard from them.

"I just assumed they are either not interested or are lacking funds," said Del Rio. "They're not talking to anybody (they drafted). I have friends on the team who were drafted by them too, but haven't heard from them."

"Right now, I think they must really be hurting for dollars."

That they are. When Bill Oldenberg's financial

FEB 7 1985



Bill Soliday

empire fizzled, that left the Express virtually ownerless and trying to handle Steve Young's \$40 million contract. The team is alive, but on life-support systems.

That leaves Del Rio with one option — an option he wanted in the first place. The NFL draft, on the last day of April, will determine where his next port of call will be.

Del Rio is currently gobbling up the honors that go

NFL and dreams of Raiders

with his All-America status. This week the PALO Alto Club honored him as its prestigious Pop Warner Award-winner at its Million Dollar Banquet. He will be in Ohio for an award next week.

"Some of these trips I've been going on have been treating me very well," he said, noting that he is a few pounds over his playing weight of 236.

Del Rio has an excellent shot at being the first South Counties prep athlete to be drafted in the first round of the NFL draft and play in the league since Fremont's Steve Barnett in the 1960s. (Pleasanton's Keith Millard was a first-round selection by Minnesota last year, but signed with the USFL).

But Del Rio is not counting on the first round.

"All the articles that are coming out now are saying 'an obvious first-rounder... a shoo-in,'" said Del Rio, describing the treatment his status has received in the Los Angeles press. "But I know you can't always believe everything you read."

Del Rio is fully aware what happened in the past to "shoo-in" first-rounders — like Cal's Ron Rivera a year ago.

"Because of those incidents, I'm not going to say I know I'm going in the first round," said Del Rio. "Even though everybody else is (saying it)."

Del Rio says expectations that are really just projections in the media are unfair to athletes.

"Sometimes players will think, 'This guy said it and this guy wrote it, so it must be true that I'm a definite first-rounder,'" he noted.

Consequently, Del Rio says he 1) hopes he goes in the first round, 2) expects he'll be chosen at least by the second and 3) will be upset if he goes lower than that.

Del Rio is not your popeyed kid. He wasn't when he announced he would attend USC four years ago, and he isn't now that he is about to go on to professional

Continued on Page 54, col. 1

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and fortune. He is taking a businesslike, practical and realistic approach to his impending status and potential wealth.

Ask him which team he would like to play for in the NFL, if there were no such thing as a draft, and he'll hedge his bets.

First, he'll be businesslike.

"Looking at it from a standpoint of where could I go and help somebody, where I'd like to be as far as living areas and business opportunities, I would probably say the Rams," said Del Rio. "They need some linebackers now. Los Angeles presents a lot of business opportunities. I've played under Coach (John) Robinson before, and he knows what I can do."

Then he'll be practical and realistic.

"I think I could help Houston," he said. "I'd like to play in Houston because I like the town. I like Dallas, too."

He'd love to play for a winning team like the 49ers, but acknowledges that he hasn't heard much from the Super Bowl champs and figures they're well set at linebacker, having drafted BYU's Todd Shell in the first round a year ago.

He'll tell you he's a West Coast kind of guy and would love to stay in the warm weather — meaning San Diego and Seattle would be just fine.

"But because it's not structured that way, because there's a draft, I've got it in my head that wherever I end up, I'll go there and make the best of it," he said.

"I'm trying to be realistic. This is going to be an article a lot of people will read. I want them to know

that I'm realistic.

"Now if you want to know about my dreams every night ..."

We do, Jack, we do.

"My dream is to play with the Raiders in the Super Bowl some day," Del Rio says with a smile. "That's because I grew up here in Hayward and most of the people here are Raider fans. I've been one all my life. That hasn't changed."

Del Rio doesn't place much hope there.

"Realistically, they are so talented, I don't know whether or not they'd draft me," he said. "But I'd love to, that's definite."

When Del Rio is drafted, there is a second matter to be determined — whether he will play inside or outside. He was an outside blitzing linebacker at USC, the flashy sort of player who got a lot of sacks.

Pro scouts will wonder whether he is coverage-oriented enough to play outside or the strong type who should play inside.

"People who know me know I can cover people," he said. "It's not a matter of me not having the feet to do it. I just need a little work at it."

Del Rio says that if he is asked to play inside linebacker, he can carry 240 pounds. If he goes outside, he can play at 225. His speed in the 40 is still 4.8, the same as it was when he graduated from Hayward High.

At any rate, he is just about where he had hoped to be after four years of the college game.

"To think about where I was then and where I'm at now, it's like a dream that I don't want to wake up from," said Del Rio. "It's really something else."

New Orleans sig

AUG 1 1985

Associated Press

RUSTON, La. — The New Orleans Saints announced Wednesday that third-round draft pick Jack Del Rio, a Hayward High product who played linebacker for Southern Cal, had agreed to terms and would join the team for the weekend scrimmage in Denver.

No details of the agreement were made public.

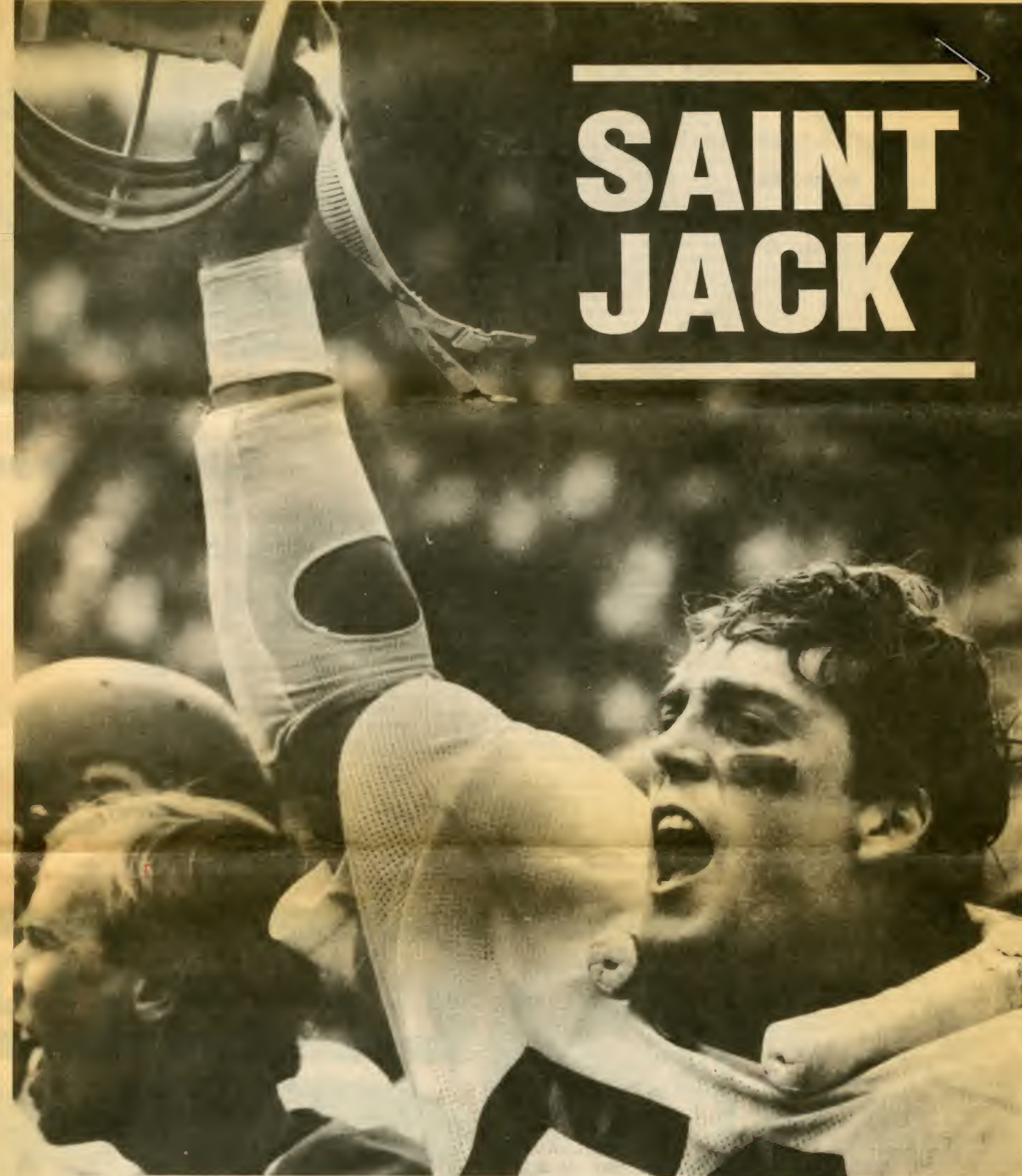
Del Rio, a 6-foot-4, 235-pounder, will arrive at the north Louisiana training camp today or will meet the team in Denver for the Saturday scrimmage, said Coach Bum Phillips.

Del Rio was the 68th pick in the draft, and the second Bay Area player selected. A two-time pre-season Playboy All-American at USC, he was named the team's Most Valuable Defensive Player after his junior season, during which he collected 99 tackles, including 13 sacks for losses totaling 107 yards.

The former three-sport star at Hayward High saw opponents direct their offense elsewhere, giving teammate Duane Bickett an opportunity to make a name for himself, while Del Rio failed to make the All-

Pacific-10 Conference team for the first time in three years. Bickett was made the No. 5 pick in the draft by the Indianapolis Colts.

Del Rio's agreement leaves the Saints with only one draft choice unsigned — No. 2 pick Daren Gilbert, an offensive tackle from Fullerton State.



SAINT JACK

Saul Bromberger — staff photo

Hayward's Jack Del Rio returns to the Bay Area this weekend as a member of the New Orleans Saints.

Hayward's Del Rio awaits a chance

SEP 26 1985

By Bill Soliday
Staff writer

Drop a Californian into New Orleans, and the first place you're liable to find him is Pat O'Brien's, the late-night saloon.

Ah, but not rookie Jack Del Rio, the former Hayward High star and the third-round draft choice of the New Orleans Saints.

He's been in New Orleans for two months, but he still hasn't seen the inside of the place that invented a damnable drink called the Hurricane.

"You always hear New Orleans is a big party town, and I imagine if you're looking to party, you could find one easily," said Del Rio. "But I haven't been out a whole lot."

He is living in an apartment in Kenner, a safe 15 miles from Bourbon Street. His life is "a little TV, a couple of beers at home."

O'Brien's will have to wait. "Right now, I want to play some football," Del Rio says.

"I hear O'Brien's is a good place. I'll check it out sometime. But I'm not in a hurry to party. I can party any time.

"I'm just waiting for my chance."

Del Rio is playing football for the Saints, but in the unfamiliar position of a backup.

He is behind 10-year NFL veteran Whitney Paul at right outside line-backer.

That is not an unusual situation for a team coached by Bum Phillips. Bum is of the George Allen old school — he prefers veterans.

"I'm just kind of partial to people who have been in the battle," he explains.

See Del Rio, Page 50

Rio

ed from first sports page

Rio isn't alone. The Saints' No. 1 draft choice, Messee linebacker Alvin Toles, is also a backup — to pro Rickey Jackson.

Knowing this hasn't made it easier for Del Rio.

"I'm still trying not to just accept it," says Del Rio, a consensus All-American at the University of Southern California.

"I don't feel good about it. But there's not really much I can do except get better and wait for my shot. It's not my decision to make."

Del Rio is not complaining loudly. He just expects perfection from himself, and knows he can't do that from the bench.

"I will never be happy as a backup," Del Rio explains. "But I think that's the kind of players they want ... people who aren't happy being backups. No one wants a team full of backup professionals."

"I want to be a starter someday — the sooner that day comes, the better. But right now, I can't press the issue. I just have to wait my turn."

It happened much like this at USC. As a freshman, Del Rio did not start until the fifth game. An injury opened the door.

"Once I got in, I never got out," Del Rio says. "I'm in a very similar situation right now, where I am just waiting for something to happen — either someone not playing well or maybe I'm just playing so well they have to get me in."

"The other option is that someone goes down with an injury, which I'd never hope for."

"But if it does happen, I'll be there."

Del Rio returns to the Bay Area Sunday to face the world champion San Francisco 49ers at Candlestick Park. He has requested as many as 30 tickets to give to his family and friends.

"I'm excited," he said, sighing when it is noted that this time, he won't be coming in with a favored team.

What of the opposition, the 49ers?

"San Francisco looks like it is taking off right where it left off last year," said Del Rio. "We're going to have to fight hard if we expect to win."

"Right now, we are trying to put together a season. We lost our first two games pretty badly. We bounced back last week (winning 20-13), but it was against Tampa."

Del Rio wasn't drafted until the third round last April. It came as a bit of a shock. He had been projected by many draft analysts as a first-rounder before the 1984 college season opened.

Pre-season raves turned to some doubts by April, even though Del Rio had 57 tackles for losses and 20 sacks in his Trojans career.

The Saints chose Toles as the 24th pick of the first round, then took Fullerton State tackle Daren Gilbert in the second round before finally taking Del Rio.

Why so late? Well, in some quarters it was said Del Rio might lack the quickness to play outside linebacker, specifically to handle pass responsibilities.

In reality, USC's defense was probably partly to blame for the questions the pros posed about Del Rio.

At USC, he was showcased as a blitz, rarely getting the chance to prove he could cover receivers.

When the scouts timed him at 4.8 in the 40-yard dash, it hurt.

New Orleans liked his play recognition and big-play abilities. Their outside linebackers are noted for blitzing frequently, although differently than it is done at USC.

The Saints line up left/right without revealing which side might blitz. At USC, the weakside linebacker almost always was coming.

"Now they won't know that if I'm on the weakside, I'm always going to rush," said Del Rio. "That's a good deal for me. They won't (be able to say) 'Yeah, Del Rio is coming.'"

"I could be dropping (to cover) on any given play ... or be coming on any given play."

"I like the situation. It would have been nice if USC had used a system like that. Then I would have had more opportunities to cover people. Then people could see that, yes, he can cover people."

Actually, coming out of college, nobody including Del Rio knew if he would be a better pro outside or inside.

In his last year in college, he bulked up and played played heavier than he ever had before. He now acknowledges that putting the additional weight on may have hurt him.

"Last fall at this time, I was anywhere between 245 and 250," he recalled. "It was a matter of me not being motivated. I felt like what I was doing — I wasn't involved in a lot of coverage — I could come in heavier. I guess I just didn't have that burning desire to work out and come in in as good a shape as I needed to."

On draft day, New Orleans did decide that Del Rio was suited to play outside. Immediately, Del Rio slimmed down.

"Right now, I am probably in the best shape I have been in, ever," he said.

Although he is listed at 235 on the team's program, he was a svelte 228 after Wednesday's practice.

Barring injury, virtually the only activity Del Rio will see Sunday against the 49ers will be on special teams and on some short-yardage defenses.

"I get a lot of action on special teams," says Del Rio. "At least I can go in and get a chance to hit somebody and run around. So I'm not totally out of the game by not starting."

On punt coverage, Del Rio plays right tackle. On punt returns, he is a blocker at right end. On kickoff coverage, he has moved around as an outside rusher.

"On kickoff returns, I play fullback, which means if they kick one short, I might get the ball," said Del Rio eagerly.

He'd gratefully let someone else have the ball if he could start at right outside linebacker.

"I'm just waiting for a shot," he says.

Transamerica

'I was glad they called my name'

Del Rio interception aids Saints' victory

By Dave Del Grande
Staff writer

SEP 30 1985

SAN FRANCISCO — Jack Del Rio the professional football player may have arrived Sunday.

As far as the San Francisco 49ers are concerned, they'd rather he'd taken a little longer.

Del Rio, who had seen mainly special-teams duty in his first three professional games with the New Orleans Saints, came up with one of the plays of the game Sunday as the Saints upset the 49ers 20-17.

The former Hayward High and University of Southern California star was inserted into the game at right outside linebacker for what appeared to be a meaningless final 39 seconds of the first half. However, on the third play, he intercepted a Joe Montana pass to set a field goal that gave the Saints a 10-7 halftime lead. Three points, remember, provided the final margin.

"It was something we worked on during the week," Del Rio said of a pass coverage that had him on one and standout linebacker Rickey Jackson on the other. "Really, I was glad they called my name. I'm glad I had a shot when it counted."

With the 49ers facing a third-and-2 at their own 10, Del Rio dropped back into the 49ers' left flank. He watched for tight ends and running backs to block toward him. Del Rio saw tight end Earl Cooper run toward him about 10 yards away when Montana threw his pass.

"Our guy (inside linebacker Scott Pelluer) had good coverage on him," Del Rio said. "I was coming up on the receiver and the ball just bounced off his hands."

His first professional interception safely in his hands, Del Rio said many things went through his head in that instant, including the fact that he was just 3 weeks from his first professional touchdown.

See Del Rio, is ing



Saul Bromberger — staff photo

Del Rio heads upfield after his interception.

...nued from first sports page
 "I knew I was in the middle of the field and I knew it was in good field position — I *really* thought about all this as soon as I had the ball," he said. "But the thing I really wanted to do was hold onto it. I got bumped by a guy and just fell on it. I didn't want to take any chances. If we'd been backed up, I'd have tried to run with it."

Del Rio returned the ball just 2 yards to the 49ers' 30. After a 9-yard pass play, Morten Andersen kicked a 39-yard field goal with three seconds left in the half for what turned out to be three crucial points.

Del Rio was used for only a few more plays at linebacker in the second half, but according to linebackers coach John Paul Young, he didn't need to accomplish anything more.

"He's still a rookie, but today is quite a start for him," Young said. "We feel like he's getting closer to being ready to play. He's a good football player, a real heady player."

While insisting that "we didn't put him in there to make a big play," Young said he wasn't surprised with



Jack Del Rio

what happened.

"He makes things happen," Young said. "He's a football player who can be at the wrong place at the right time — you'd be surprised how many times it works out for him. It's a combination of intelligence,

moxie and athletic ability. He's a unique guy."

Part of his uniqueness is his uncanny ability to rise to the occasion. Since he left Hayward for USC in 1981, he's returned to the Bay Area five times as a football player and has played five outstanding games. Not coincidentally, his teams are 5-0 in those games.

"It's always been a great feeling to come home to the Bay Area," Del Rio insisted. "Even if I had just played on special teams, it was a good feeling to play in front of my father, brothers and uncles."

"I've always had good success up here. I feel I have a big play in me when I play here, it's just a matter of bringing it out."

Del Rio's father, Jack Sr., bought 25 tickets for the game. The Del Rio party certainly made itself heard in the corner of the south end zone.

"Whenever I come to the Bay Area, I'm always playing against the Bay Area teams and their fans," Del Rio said. "But all my family and friends here were saying, 'Today, we're Saints fans.' "

As it turned out, they rooted for a winner.

Del Rio ignites Saints

DEC 2 1985

From staff and wire reports

NEW ORLEANS — The big difference Sunday was that the New Orleans Saints were a reckless and gambling ball club again, said line-backer Rickey Jackson after his team's 29-3 defeat of the Los Angeles Rams.

Hayward's Jack Del Rio scored a touchdown to help Wade Phillips gain his first National Football League win. Phillips was named interim coach of the Saints Monday when his father, Bum Phillips, abruptly resigned.

"Wade put something new in for the defense," Jackson said. "He put a lot of men up front to leave me one-on-one, and we didn't do that before."

"It's the first time in a long time that we opened up on defense and offense," he said. "Everybody was having fun."

"Before, we'd put new stuff in and never call it. This time we called it."

See Saints, Page 35

second victory and then
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midway
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from first sports page
Morten Andersen kicked five
field goals for the Saints. And, line-
backers Jackson and Del Rio led an
inspired defense that kept the Rams
bottled up at their own end of the
field for most of the game.

Del Rio, in his first NFL season
after starring at University of
Southern California, helped seal the
Rams' fate when he returned a fum-
ble for a touchdown in the fourth
quarter.

"It really felt good to come up
with this big win, especially since
the game was being telecast to my
home area," said Del Rio.

The Saints defense dominated the
Rams and blew open the game in
the fourth quarter.

Johnnie Poe picked off a Dieter
Brock pass to set up the first touch-
down of the game, a 43-yard pass
from ex-Oakland Invaders quarter-
back Bobby Hebert to Eric Martin

two plays after the interception.
A little over a minute later, line-
backer James Haynes sacked Los
Angeles quarterback Jeff Kemp,
causing a fumble that Del Rio
scooped up and returned 22 yards
for a touchdown.

Del Rio, a Hayward High grad
who has started the last six games
at inside linebacker for New Or-
leans, wasn't sure that he'd be able
to score his first NFL touchdown
once he picked up the loose ball.
"I saw the ball come loose and I
picked it up," Del Rio recalled. "I

saw David Hill (L.A.'s tight end)
coming at me but (linebacker) Glen
Redd took care of him and I said to
myself, "I'll take this touchdown"
and I ran it in."

Four minutes after Del Rio's
score, Jackson hit Hill, knocking the
ball loose from him at the Rams' 32-
yard line where Del Rio recovered
to set up Andersen's fifth field goal.

Aside from his two fumble recov-
eries, Del Rio also forced a fumble.
The 6-foot-4, 235-pounder has re-
covered five fumbles this season
and has also intercepted two passes.

Andersen's field goals were from
47, 42, 35, 27 yards and 35 yards.

First downs
Rushes-yards
Passing
Return Yards
Comp-Att
Sacks by
Punts
Fumbles-Lost

Penalties-Yards
Time of Possession
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—L.A., Dickerson 16-80, Redden 9-25, Brock 1-
0. New Orleans, Campbell 22-74, W. Wilson 9-20, Hebert 2-4-

7). Anthony 1-(-3).
PASSING—L.A., Brock 5-10-1-48, Kemp 5-8-0-82. New
Orleans, Hebert 13-22-0-208.

RECEIVING—L.A., Redden 2-34, Ellard 2-21, Brown 2-19.
McDonald 1-35, Hunter 1-9, Dickerson 1-6, Hill 1-4. New
Orleans, Goodlow 3-61, Tice 3-36, Martin 2-53, Campbell 2-

45, Anthony 2-10, W. Wilson 1-3.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—none.

L.A. Rams

New Orleans
NO—FG Andersen 47
NO—FG Andersen 42
NO—FG Andersen 35
LA—FG Lanford 41
NO—FG Andersen 27
NO—Martin 43 pass from Hebert (Andersen kick)
NO—Del Rio 22 fumble recovery return (Andersen kick)
NO—FG Andersen 35
A—44, 122.

LA	NO
13	14
26-105	34-84
59	196
18	36
10-18-1	13-22-0
2-12	9-69
5-50	4-35
3-3	1-0
2-15	4-16
27:30	32:30

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6 3 0 20—29

Sainthood agrees with New Orleans' Del Rio

Hayward product gaining respect

By Bill Soliday
Staff writer

DEC 14 1985

NEW ORLEANS — Jack Del Rio's pro career didn't really start until he came home to the Bay Area to play the San Francisco 49ers.

Now it's moving faster than a speeding bullet ... even if his New Orleans Saints aren't.

On Sunday, Del Rio will make his eighth start at inside linebacker, where he has made a name for himself — three times being named the Saints' player of the week.

The Hayward High product, the Saints' third-round draft choice, was a rookie reserve outside linebacker when New Orleans came to San Francisco on Sept. 29.

Of course, history will record that Del Rio intercepted a deflected pass, leading to a Saints field goal at the end of the first half in New Orleans' 20-17, upset victory.

Things have been hopping for Del Rio since then.

"Every time we put him in the game, he seemed to be making a big play," says Wade Phillips, the Saints' coach. "It started with the San Francisco game. He would either make an interception, cause a fumble or recover one. He has a lot of instinct and makes big plays."

"He just has this knack."

"The knack" manifested itself on Dec. 1 against the Rams. Del Rio's dad and brothers were there for the game and the rest of his family in the East Bay was watching.

See Del Rio, Page 18



Hayward's Jack Del Rio, now a New Orleans Saint, gets his first start against the San Francisco 49ers at the Superdome Sunday.

Associated Press

... from first sports page
on television.

Del Rio gets motivated when he plays in front of family and friends.

He picked up a fumble and ran it in for a touchdown in a 29-3 upset of the Rams. Once reaching the end zone, Del Rio promptly slammed the ball to the ground, so hard that he fell down.

"I got a lot of kidding about that," said Del Rio. "I was just so excited to score a TD — I knew my brothers were there at the game and everybody was watching back home. I was trying to throw it as hard as I could."

On the next play from scrimmage, he forced a fumble. He later recovered a second fumble.

Naturally, Del Rio was named the Saints' player of the game.

Against Atlanta several weeks earlier, he forced a fumble, picked it up and handed it to end Frank Warren, who ran 50 yards for a touchdown.

Del Rio was named player of the game for that game. Against the Giants, in his first full game at inside

Against the Giants, in his first full game at inside linebacker, he also forced a fumble.

Del Rio was player of the game that week, too. Eventually, you have to find a spot for somebody like that.

Oddly enough, the Saints' player of the game is supposed to receive a prize — two free, round-trip air fares provided by Pride Airlines.

But three weeks ago, Pride Airlines had to go back on

its word.

"They took a dive," said Del Rio of the airline's business collapse. "But from what I understand, they are going to come back and honor it. I hope so; I won it three times."

How did Del Rio go from a reserve outside linebacker — the position he played for four years in college at Southern California — to a starter inside?

First, inside linebacker Dennis "Dirt" Winston retired. Then inside backer Jim Kovach, who had been on the injured list, was claimed on waivers by the 49ers. Starter Scott Pelleur was injured.

And Del Rio was performing all these miracles.

"I wanted to look at James Haynes outside and I felt Jack would work better inside," said Phillips, the defensive coordinator for the Saints before taking over for his father, Bum Phillips.

Wade Phillips played a hunch.

"I think he can get around the ball a little more from inside than from the outside," said Phillips. "In the future, they can use him there because he can rush from inside, which is something we haven't had much of."

"I'm still trying to get accustomed to it," said Del Rio. "It's a lot different. Blocking patterns come at you a lot differently. But it's a lot of fun."

"At first, I wasn't sure if it was best for me, but I went in with a positive attitude and decided to go get it. It's more of a thinking man's spot, whereas outside is more reaction.

"It's worked out pretty well."

To say the least. Del Rio has 56 tackles, has forced three fumbles, has recovered five and has intercepted two passes. He is a strong candidate for the NFL's all-rookie team.

On Sunday, he gets his first start against the 49ers. He acknowledges that the Saints aren't as motivated for this game as they were for the Rams game, in which they totally embarrassed the NFC West leaders.

"It was kind of weird," said Del Rio. "I don't know why we were so motivated for that game — maybe because Bobby (Hebert) was playing well and Earl (Campbell) was running hard. Things just started clicking for us. Bum had quit and Wade took over, and maybe it was like a breath of fresh air for us."

"Last week we were very flat after playing with all that emotion against Los Angeles and just having a good time," said Del Rio. "This week is sort of in between. We're not real flat, but we're not as excited as we were for the Rams.

"I think we're going to play hard. We won't lie down for anyone. But I don't think we will have the same enthusiasm as San Francisco, because the motivation isn't the same for us as it is for them."

The 49ers need two victories in their last two games to assure themselves of a playoff spot.

At 5-9, the Saints aren't going anywhere.

"We're just trying to do the best we can for the rest of the year," said Del Rio. "I just hope next year we can start (playing with emotion) early in the season."

No charges filed in Del Rio case

OCT 16 1987

KANSAS CITY (AP) — No charges will be filed in the Sept. 24 scuffle between former Kansas City Chiefs star Otis Taylor and striking Chiefs linebacker Jack Del Rio, police said Thursday.

Both men filed criminal complaints in the incident, which occurred during the first day of picketing outside Arrowhead Stadium. Neither Taylor nor Del Rio have listed phone numbers and could not be reached for comment.

Taylor, 45, filed an assault report against Del Rio — a Hayward High graduate — with police Sept. 29, claiming the 24-year-old striking player used abusive language toward him, grabbed him around the neck and pulled him to the ground.

Taylor filed a civil suit against Del Rio and the NFL Players Association the next day, seeking \$1 million in damages. The day after that, Del Rio went to police to file his own assault complaint against Taylor. Del Rio claimed that Taylor grabbed him first and then knocked him to the ground.

In a case disposition form filled out by the city prosecutor's office, police were notified that charges were declined because there was "insufficient evidence of criminal intent on either party."

Dan Sharp, an assistant city prosecutor, would not comment on the ruling, noting that cases in which charges are not filed are closed records.

The incident began when a friend of Taylor's, Charles Meek, walked to the stadium parking lot and found one of his tires slashed. Meek said he and Del Rio exchanged words, but Meek said he never accused Del Rio of the slashing.

Taylor then walked out of the stadium with a tryout player, and both Del Rio's and Taylor's complaint state that Del Rio started calling Taylor and the player "scabs."

Taylor and Del Rio confronted each other, with Del Rio apparently unaware he was talking to Taylor, a former All-Pro wide receiver. After several seconds, both men went to the ground in a heap.

Witnesses gave differing accounts of who struck the first blow. After filing their complaints, both Taylor and Del Rio went to the police station a second time to give statements on the incident.

Thursday, December 12, 1991

Del Rio fits into an impressive mold

■ Former Hayward star making most of move to Dallas and new position

DEC 12 1991

ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRVING, Texas — Jack Del Rio is one of only five good men to play middle linebacker on a permanent basis for the Dallas Cowboys.

Before Del Rio, there was Jerry Tubbs, Lee Roy Jordan, Bob Breunig and Eugene Lockhart.

Del Rio, not particularly fast but quick of mind and a deadly tackler, took over this season when Lockhart was traded to the New England Patriots.

Through 14 games, the former Hayward High star leads the team with 115 tackles, 67 of them solo.

What has made Del Rio's season amazing is that he never played middle linebacker before.

"He's been our defensive quarterback," said Dallas coach Jimmy Johnson. "He's helped make us more physical against the run."

The Cowboys tried Ken Norton at middle linebacker during training camp, and Del Rio felt that if he couldn't chase Norton back to the outside it would be pink slip time once the regular season began.

"I'm not in Dallas if I'm not the starting middle linebacker," Del Rio said in training camp.

He was the starter in the middle and hasn't looked back

since.

"I had confidence I could fill Eugene's spot," Del Rio said. "I knew what I was capable of doing even if others didn't."

Before the season, one of Johnson's primary goals was to stop the run.

"You're dead in the NFC East if you can't," he said.

The Cowboys have climbed into the NFL's top 10 in stopping the run and Del Rio has been a big factor.

"Jack is just tenacious," said defensive lineman Russell Maryland. "He's our leader out there in the middle. He might not be quick or run fast but his desire makes him good at that position. We don't have a lot of big name talent on our defense like Philadelphia, but we've got guys with a lot of heart like Del Rio."

Defensive coordinator Dave Wannstedt said "Jack understands defenses. He's smart. This move will really help his career."

The 6-foot-4, 240-pound Del Rio was a third round pick by the New Orleans Saints in 1985. Johnson claimed him off the waiver wire in the summer of 1989.

Del Rio, in his seventh year out of Southern Cal, has been a late bloomer.

"I had a great college career and never really applied myself at the pro level," said Del Rio, who started 17 games in two seasons with Kansas City before he was released. "I finally committed myself to getting back to the level I'm capable of playing."



Hayward product Jack Del Rio has found a home in Dallas.